The Definition of Standard ML
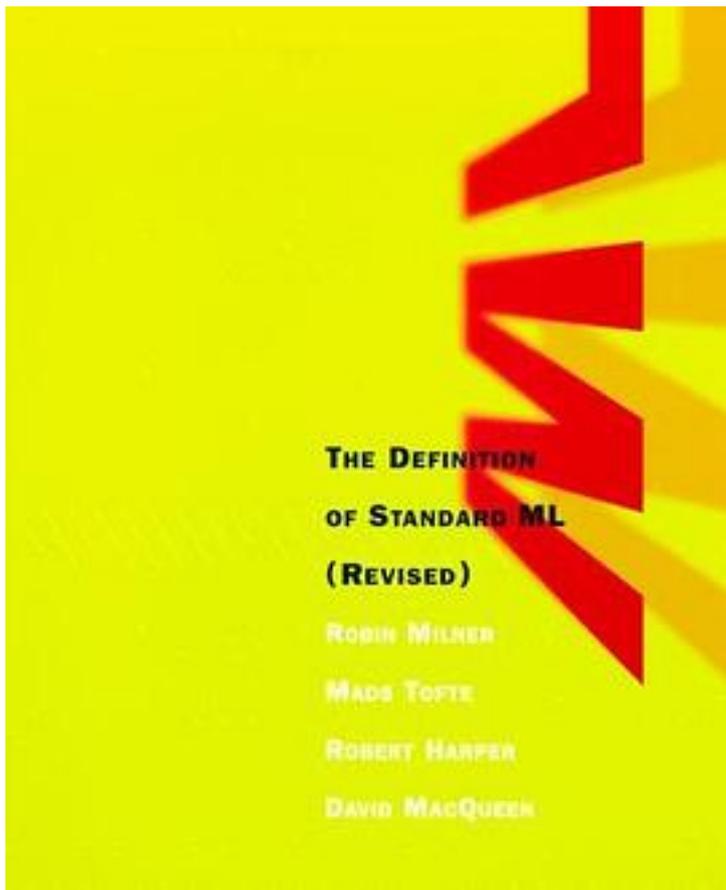
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Standard ML is a general-purpose programming language designed for large projects. This book provides a formal definition of Standard ML for the benefit of all concerned with the language, including users and implementers. Because computer programs are increasingly required to withstand rigorous analysis, it is all the more important

that the language in which they are written be defined with full rigor. One purpose of a language definition is to establish a theory of meanings upon which the understanding of particular programs may rest. To properly define a programming language, it is necessary to use some form of notation other than a programming language. Given a concern for rigor, mathematical notation is an obvious choice. The authors have defined their semantic objects in mathematical notation that is completely independent of Standard ML. In defining a language one must also define the rules of evaluation precisely--that is, define what meaning results from evaluating any phrase of the language. The definition thus constitutes a formal specification for an implementation. The authors have developed enough of their theory to give sense to their rules of evaluation. The Definition of Standard ML is the essential point of reference for Standard ML. Since its publication in 1990, the implementation technology of the language has advanced enormously and the number of users has grown. The revised edition includes a number of new features, omits little-used features, and corrects mistakes of definition.

作者介绍:

Robin Milner is Professor of Theoretical Computer Science and Head of Department at the University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory. Mads Tofte is Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Copenhagen. Robert Harper is Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. David MacQueen is Head of the Software Principles Research Department, Computing Sciences Research Center, Bell Laboratories, Lucent Technologies.

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http://book.douban.com/subject/4133469/ 来读，可惜的是这本注释没有更新到ML
97，否则读起来能更容易一些。
本书里面的推导规则虽然看着挺吓人的，但是有点耐心的话并不难。 PS.
话说作者写个语...

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